



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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Nov 20, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Marcia Christine Ottoman

**DEXTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE SENTENCED FOR IMPERSONATION OF A
FEDERAL OFFICIAL AND WIRE FRAUD**

Elected Dexter Township Trustee Marcia Christine Ottoman, 44, of Dexter Township, was sentenced today to 22 months and received a \$3,000 fine as a result of her guilty plea to impersonating a federal prosecutor and wire fraud, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

Ottoman was indicted by a federal grand jury on May 9, 2007 and pleaded guilty on April 29, 2008. The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that between October 11, 2006 through December 18, 2006, Ottoman created false documentation pretending to be an Assistant United States Attorney, and in such pretended character, she demanded control of real property. Ottoman also admitted to fraudulently using e-mail messages to further her scheme.

The indictment followed a criminal complaint filed against Ottoman on April 9, 2007. The complaint alleged that Ottoman created an e-mail account in the name of a federal prosecutor in Detroit. Ottoman also authored a letter in the AUSA's name on forged U.S. Department of Justice letterhead. Ottoman utilized e-mails and the letter to attempt to evict tenants from a rented house in Dexter Township, apparently so Ottoman and her husband could move in. A Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department Deputy alerted the FBI to the scheme.

Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "Impersonating a federal official for the purpose of corruptly influencing another to give up property rights is a serious crime. Such conduct can not only harm the victim, but also undermine the general public's trust in the integrity of public officials."

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI and was prosecuted by Detroit Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew Schneider and Matthew Roth.